

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02) today announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded a \$100,000 economic development and business promotion grant to Fort Valley State University. The grants were awarded to 15 historically African-American land-grant educational institutions in 14 states.

“This federal investment in the future of our area of the state promises to pay for itself many times over in terms of the entrepreneurship training and benefits to our rural youth,” Bishop said. “I commend the USDA for approving this grant to provide a dynamic new economic development resource for the people of our area.”

The grants, provided through USDA Rural Development, will help create businesses, promote cooperatives and provide jobs. According to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, these funds will allow students to learn to take advantage of existing economic development opportunities in their communities - such as renewable energy resources - as well as the vast business knowledge and connections of their faculty members.

The recipients are among the 18 institutions supported under the Second Morrill Act of 1890, a law providing for the establishment of land-grant institutions focusing on agriculture, home economics and the mechanic arts.

For more information on Rural Development's programs, visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/oa/1890.htm>.